

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0070] beginning on page 24, as follows:

[0070]

As the stretching members 30 and 31, if deformed reinforcing bars provided with external threads on outer peripheries thereof are employed, the ~~nuts 35~~nuts 37 can be screwed on without forming the external thread portions 30a and 31a. In addition, if the stretching members 30 and 31 are coated with a corrosion-resistant material such as a resin pipe, the corrosion resistance is enhanced to prevent rust development due to moisture infiltrating from boundaries between the blocks. Furthermore, the spring washers (not shown) intervening between the holding plates 34d and 34e and the nuts 37 can prevent deterioration of the tensile force caused by contraction of the block or extension of the stretching members 30 and 31.